

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 00683 061000Z

15

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 (ISO) W

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R 041145Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2673

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BANJUL 0683

DEPT FOR CU/AF, CU/AP, AF/W

ALSO PASS USIA

DAKAR FOR PAO

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC SCUL GA

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT TO THE GAMBIA - TENNIS CHAMPION

ARTHUR ASHE

1. JULY 25 WIRELESS FILE REPORTS ARTHUR ASHE SCHEDULED VISIT NIGERIA FEB 1976. ASHE QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: . . .
"NEXT YEAR'S TOURNAMENT IN NIGERIA COULD BE CONSIDERED TYPE OF FOLLOW-UP TOUR HE AND STAN SMITH MADE TO AFRICA IN 1970 WHICH INSPIRED MANY YOUNG AFRICAN TENNIS PLAYERS."

2. AS PERSONAL WITNESS TO THEIR GREAT IMPACT IN ACCRA IN 1970, WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND CHECKING INTO AVAILABILITY OF ASHE FOR 48-HOUR STOPOVER BANJUL ON WAY TO OR FROM LAGOS FOR SAME PURPOSES OF PROMOTING INTEREST IN TENNIS AMONG YOUTH. EXHIBITION MATCH AND CLINICS SHOULD BE FEATURED.

3. FEBRUARY WEATHER BANJUL IDEAL. EMBASSY AND GAMBIAN DIRECTOR YOUTH AND SPORTS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ASSIST IF SUCH VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED.

4. WITH SECOND POSTPONEMENT 2ND WORLD BLACK AND AFRICAN ART FESTIVAL BY NEW NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT, PERHAPS SOME SUPPORTING FUNDS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN USIA OR CU WHICH
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COULD BE PUT INTO FACILITATING TOUR TO INCLUDE BANJUL.

REALIZE ASHE MAY HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS, USG AGENCIES
OTHER PLANS, ETC., BUT IF WE CAN JUST GET SOMEBODY IN
WASHINGTON TO THINK ABOUT DOING SOME CULTURAL/ATHLETIC
PRESENTATION HERE WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING. IF
USSR, PRC, AND DPRK CAN MANAGE WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO
LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF CULTURAL CRIPPLES?
MCFARLAND

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NNN

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